



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: KNG-200302330
EVALUATOR: Ms. Kaaren Geter
PHONE NO.: (601) 631-5162
FAX NO.: (601) 631-5459
E-MAIL: regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE: October 27, 2003
EXPIRATION DATE: November 17, 2003

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

State of Louisiana - Military Department
Mr. Brad King
Department of Facility Engineering
Building 36, Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, Louisiana 70146

Location of Work: Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, and 38, T5N-R2E, latitude 31°23'56.1439" longitude 92°18'38.6843", within the Little River Drainage Basin, Rapides Parish, Esler Airfield, northeast of Pineville, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to place fill into wetlands. The purpose of the work is for construction of a maintenance facility for the Louisiana Army National Guard.

The project site consists of a total of 74 acres, of which 1.53 acres are wet. The wetland acreage consists of 1.24 acres of forested wetland and 0.29 acre of pasture wetland. The applicant proposes to mechanically clear and fill approximately 1.53 acres to allow for the construction of a permanent masonry structure with associated roads, sidewalks, parking areas, security fencing, lighting, vehicle wash system and pumphouse, fuel storage and dispensing system, lube and inspection rack, loading ramp, flammable material storage, and control waste handling facilities. The pasture wetlands vegetation consists of soft rush, seedbox, flatsedge, bahia grassa and buttonbush. The forested wetland vegetation consists of sweetgum, pine, sweetbay magnolia, flatsedge, and red maple. Vegetation would be mechanically cleared and fill material added to the wetlands. Approximately 7,600 cubic yards of sandy clay fill material obtained from elevated portions on site would be placed in the wetland areas.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in wetlands associated with the mechanized land clearing requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Rapides Parish listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

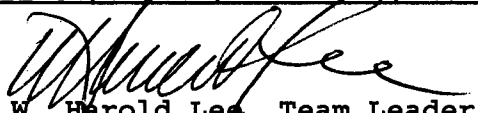
Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and advise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

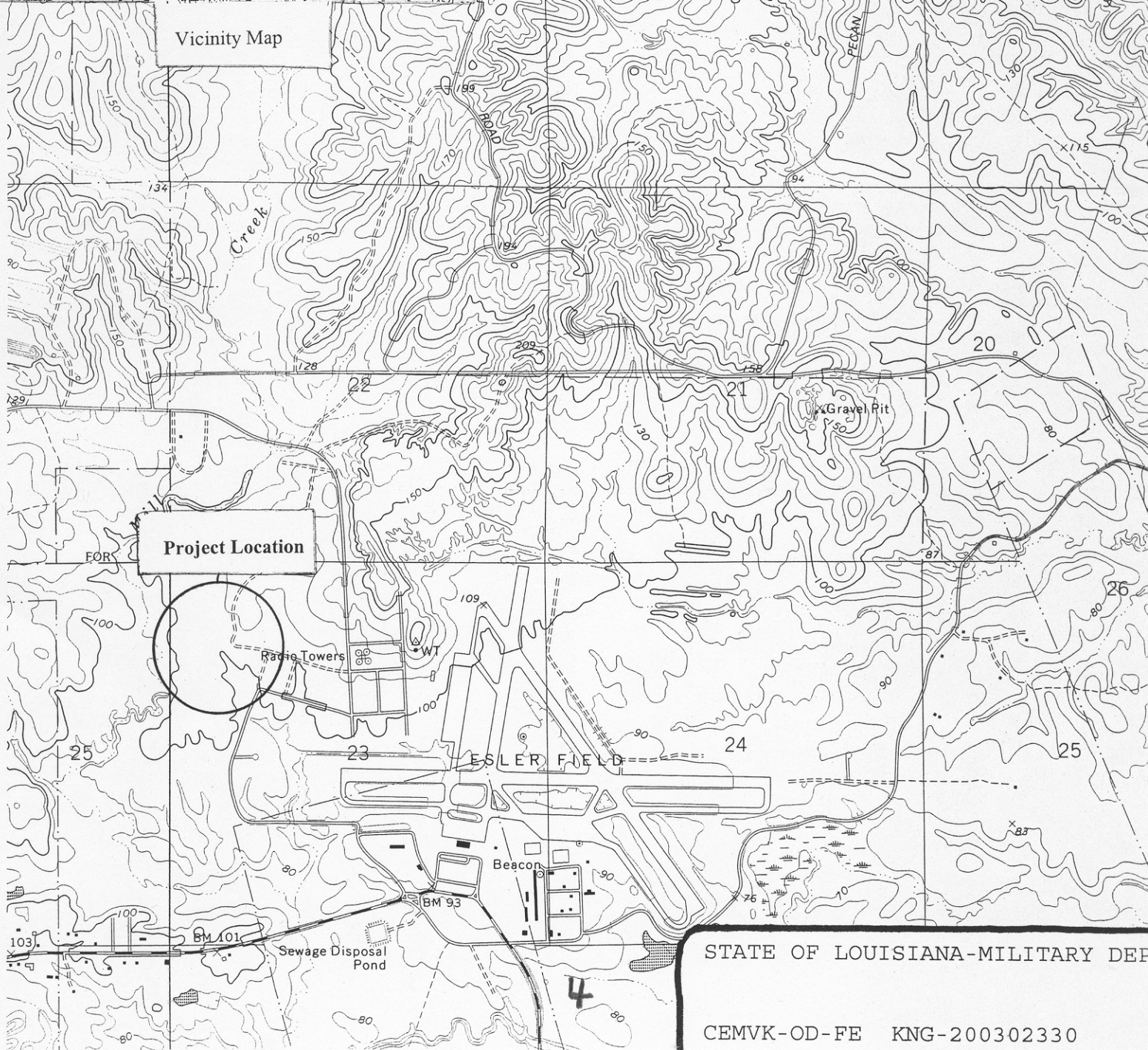
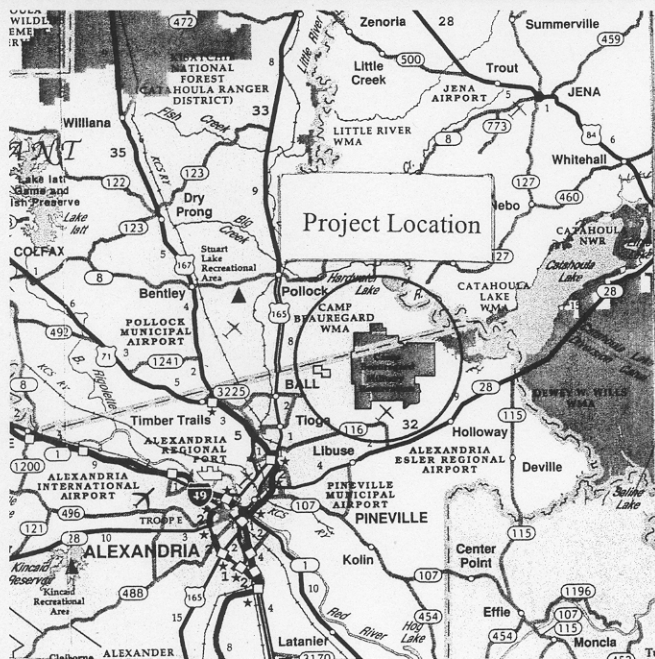
Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.


W. Harold Lee, Team Leader
Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch





Project Location

CEMVK-OD-FE KNG-200302330

STATE OF LOUISIANA-MILITARY DEPT

Figure 3.0
Jurisdictional Wetlands within the Proposed Consolidated Maintenance Facility (CMF) Construction Footprint.

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LA Army National Guard

Scale: 1:4,200

September 17, 2003

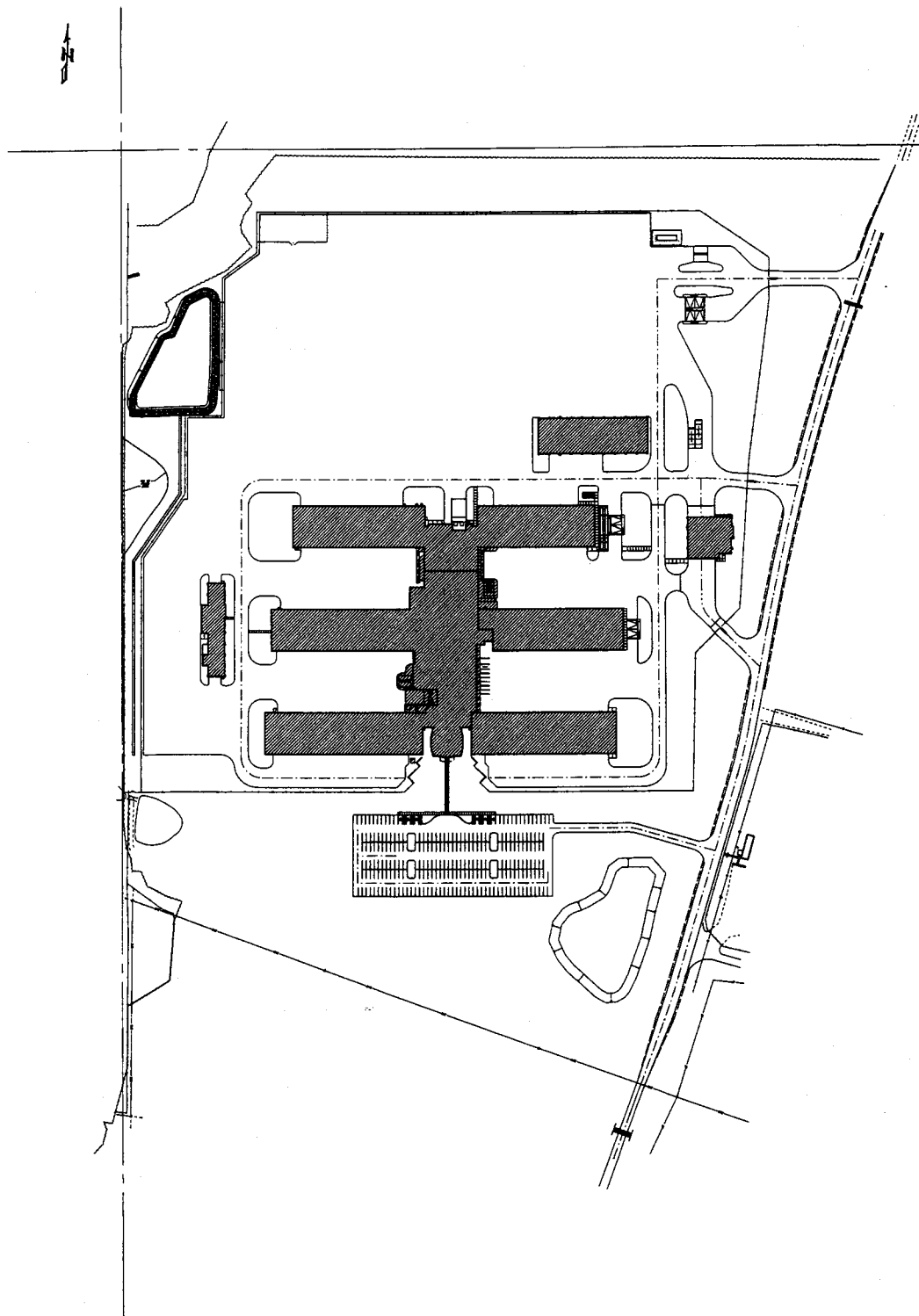


Figure 2.0
Plan View of CMF Project.

LA Army National Guard

Scale: Not to Scale

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